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LETTER DATED 5 FEBRUARY 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Further to my letter dated 4 February 1999 (S/1999/115), I have the honour to transmit to you a press release issued on 5 February 1999 by the Office of the Ethiopian Government Spokesperson regarding Eritrean aerial bombing of the Ethiopian town of Adigrat, in the regional state of Tigray (see annex). This latest military action by the Eritrean authorities confirms the fact that they are bent on further escalating the crisis between them and Ethiopia.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Press release issued on 5 February 1999 by the Office of the Spokesperson of the Government of Ethiopia

Eritrea bombs Adigrat

This morning at 1045, two Eritrean fighter planes bombed the town of Adigrat. The intended target was a fuel depot and its surroundings. Today's attack by Eritrea is a flagrant violation of the moratorium on air strikes brokered by the United States of America and agreed to by Ethiopia and Eritrea in June 1998. According to a statement issued by the White House Press Secretary on 14 June 1998, the "moratorium will continue indefinitely or until such time as either party concludes that any prospect for a peace process has come to an end and provides formal, advance notice to the United States Government that it will no longer respect this moratorium". Eritrea's bombing of Adigrat, the latest in a pattern of provocative actions, once again shows that the Government in Asmara has no intention of pursuing a peaceful resolution to the conflict. This is particularly evident as Eritrea's attack comes at a time when the United Nations Special Envoy in Africa, Mr. Mohammed Sahnoun, is in the region in support of the peace proposal of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), and when Eritrea's clear and unequivocal acceptance of the OAU Framework Agreement was awaited by the international community.